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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, without You, we are but disappearing dust. Draw near to our Senators, for in Your presence, they find their dignity and destiny. Breathe into them an awareness of Your presence and the saving knowledge that they belong to You. May this awareness inspire them to walk the days of their years in service to You and humanity. Lord, help them to remember that You are changeless, nor is there any variableness in Your judgment and mercy. Remind them also that they can depend on You for the vindication of every just cause and the forgiveness of every confessed sin. May they trust You to give them strength to work today, free of fretting and frustration.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 11, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we extend morning business until 3:30 rather than 3 o'clock.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. After leader remarks, if there are any, we will be in a period of morning business until 3:30. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the credit card legislation. Under a previous order, Senators DODD and SHELBY will be recognized. Senator DODD will offer the Dodd-Shelby substitute amendment. There will be no rollcall votes today.

While we are talking about the schedule, I haven't had the opportunity yet to speak to the Republican leader, but I will as soon as we can work out a time to visit today. It appears that we have no alternative but to have votes next Monday. We have a number of nominations. I have to file cloture on all of them. It doesn't work out otherwise. There are certain things we have to do before we go. We have the credit card legislation. We need to do the supplemental appropriations bill. I

am confident we can work something out on that. That should go fairly quickly. The only thing that I see that could cause some concern is the closing of Guantanamo. Senator MCCAIN, Senator Obama, during the campaign, indicated they thought it should be closed. I agree with them. The issue is what we do with the prisoners who are there.

What the House has done is just have nothing in the bill. What Senator INOUE and Senator COCHRAN have done, or they will do—I guess they will mark it up Thursday—Senator INOUE told me they were going to fence the money so it wouldn't be available until the President came up with a plan and that there be no prisoners brought to the United States during this fiscal year. But that looks like an issue that could cause a little bit of debate.

I have laid out what the two issues are and how we are trying to resolve them, but we are going to have to have votes next Monday. We have a number of nominations. I have tried lots of different ways to get them done. But it appears the only thing we can do is file cloture. There are three we have to do.

There is legislation that we need to complete because of what is happening in the financial world that deals with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and calls for setting up a bipartisan 9/11-type commission to take a look at what has happened, what caused the financial breakdown. It is offered by Senators CONRAD and ISAKSON. We need to finish that legislation before we go. That would just be a message from the House, which is amendable, but it would only require one cloture vote.

So, anyway, I just wanted to alert everyone that unless we work something out in the next little bit, we will have to have votes on Monday. It was originally announced to be a no-vote day.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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